

recyclers know what types of toner cartridge will be returned, when and in what quantities. This allows manufacturers and recyclers to collect and recycle used cartridges efficiently at low costs according to schedule.

5 As things stand now, however, only the question as to whether to recycle toner cartridges is determined by users when the toner cartridges have been used, and thus a proper environment is yet to be established for effective, low-cost collection and recycling. Besides, current
10 collection methods of toner cartridges involve (1) stores or manufactures dispatching recovery vehicles, (2) users taking toner cartridges to stores, or (3) users sending toner cartridges by packing them in special boxes, but all these methods are troublesome and costly. Also, since
15 recycling information is not managed, manufactures and recyclers of toner cartridges draw up recycling schedules based on past performance in collection and recycling. Consequently, results can differ greatly from expectations.

20 Under these circumstances, manufactures and recyclers that should play an important role in recycling are carrying out recycling activities passively, and recycling is actually supported by the efforts of users and stores. It seems that many used toner cartridges are discarded to avoid
25 the labor and cost of collection. Thus, there is demand for a collection system which can reduce the labor and cost of collection.

Disclosure of Invention

The present invention intends to solve the above problems individually or collectively and its object is to
5 centrally control circulation of office consumables.

To attain this object, a preferred embodiment of the present invention discloses a collection method of logging in to a designated server and specifying collection of office consumables according to a screen supplied by the
10 above described server, characterized in that the above described screen contains an item for ordering office consumables, and an item for specifying whether to use collection of used office consumables.

The preferred embodiment of the present invention also
15 discloses an ordering method of allowing the user to log-in to a designated server and ordering desired office consumables according to an ordering screen supplied by the above described server, characterized in that the above described screen contains a list of office consumables
20 compatible with the equipment used by an orderer.

The preferred embodiment of the present invention also discloses a collection method which comprises a sending step of sending display screen information to a terminal connected via a communications line, the above described
25 display screen information containing an input field for entering ordering information of goods and an input field

for specifying whether the above described goods be collected.

09/25/98 10:50:14

The preferred embodiment of the present invention also discloses a sales method of using an information processing apparatus which manages information about users' equipment and is connected to a plurality of terminals via communications lines, characterized in that the above described sales method comprises an identification step of identifying the equipment owned by a user based on information specific to the above described user received from one of the above described terminals, and a generation step of generating display screen information for displaying the equipment owned by the user identified in the above described identification step.

15 The preferred embodiment of the present invention also discloses a sales method which comprises a receiving step of receiving ordering information sent via the Internet; and a judgment step of judging, based on inventory information of the warehouse from which the goods identified by the above described ordering information can be transported in the shortest period corresponding to geographical information of the orderer identified by the above described ordering information, whether the above described goods can be shipped from the above described warehouse.

The preferred embodiment of the present invention also discloses a sales method which comprises a sending step of